

RUNNING ON EMPTY

the life and ministry of Elijah





1 Kings 19:19-21

19 So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. 20 Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye," he said, "and then I will come with you." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?" 21 So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.

Important Observations

- *Elijah is courageous but exhausted*
- *Elisha is committed and enthusiastic*
- *Elijah's Cloak – Representative of His Anointing in the Spirit*
- *Feast – A farewell party and a decisive break*
- *Great Cost of Following YHWH*

2 Kings 1:1-2

2 When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2 Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel.”

But Elisha said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.”

2 Kings 2:3-4

3 The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, “Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?”

“Yes, I know,” Elisha replied, “so be quiet.”

4 Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho.”

And he replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho.””

2 Kings 2:5-6

5 The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?”

“Yes, I know,” he replied, “so be quiet.”

6 Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.”

And he replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them walked on.



2 Kings 2:7-8

7 Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. 8 Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

2 Kings 2:9-10

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?”

“Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied.

10 “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.”

2 Kings 2:11-12

11 As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. 12 Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

2 Kings 2:13-14

13 Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14 He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. "Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

2 Kings 2:15-16

15 The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, "The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha." And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him. 16 "Look," they said, "we your servants have fifty able men. Let them go and look for your master. Perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has picked him up and set him down on some mountain or in some valley."

2 Kings 2:17-18

“No,” Elisha replied, “do not send them.”

17 But they persisted until he was too embarrassed to refuse. So he said, “Send them.” And they sent fifty men, who searched for three days but did not find him. 18 When they returned to Elisha, who was staying in Jericho, he said to them,
“Didn’t I tell you not to go?”

Moses/Joshua & Elisha/Elijah Connection

- *Joshua and Elisha divinely appointed to finish the work of Moses and Elijah*
- *Name is Mission: Joshua “The LORD YHWHY saves” Elisha “God Elohim saves”*
- *Spiritual Men: Joshua “a man who has the spirit” (Number 27:18) Elisha asks for a double portion of Elisha’s spirit*

Moses/Joshua & Elisha/Elijah Connection

- *Moses dies , Elijah ascends in same location East of the Jordan looking into the Promised Land*
- *Joshua and Elisha Miraculous Crossing of the Jordan into the Promised Land*

Moses/Joshua & Elisha/Elijah Connection

- *What is God telling us?*
- *YHWH is the God of Israel*
- *God is faithful to his covenant people*

Double Portion of the Spirit

- *Birthright of the oldest son*
- *Prophetic anointing from YHWH*
- *Guaranteed only by YHWH*
- *Spirit is the inheritance needed to carry on the prophetic ministry*

Double Portion of the Spirit

Scripture records exactly twice as many miracles through Elisha (28 miracles) as took place through Elijah (14 miracles)

John 16:7-11

⁷ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

John 16:12-15

12 “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

Our Inheritance in Jesus – A Double Portion of the Holy Spirit

John 16:7-15

- *The helper, counselor, comforter, advocate*
- *Convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgment*
- *The Spirit of Truth will guide us into all truth*
- *From the Father and the Son*

Romans 8:15-17

15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

RUNNING ON EMPTY

the life and ministry of Elijah

